The Lie That You Can Never Have the Character of Christ

Most of us have been taught to look admiringly at everything Lord Jesus did, at His manner of being. We have been deceived that we cannot have His righteousness, His long-suffering, His gentleness...

We are taught that Lord Jesus lived at a divine standard, inaccessible to humans, and that for this reason, earthly weaknesses are allowed for us. We are deceived that salvation lies only in the forgiveness of sins through the sacrifice on the cross and that at the resurrection, His righteousness will be attributed to us.

If we want to find out how Lord Jesus lived, only things that are not within the reach of the simple man are highlighted. We are shown that He walked on water, fed five thousand people with just five loaves and two fish, raised people from the dead, rebuked the wind... We could say that He did things that no ordinary person can do.

Satan deceives us through people subservient to him that no one can live like Lord Jesus and that this call is not for us. However, the Word of Scripture tells us categorically that we must live as Lord Jesus lived. It is a command that must be fulfilled by each of us. (He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. 1 John 2:6)

The Lord does not call us to multiply loaves, nor to walk on water, nor to raise the dead or other miraculous things. We are not called to resemble Him in these things, but to live as He lived.

We must live in those things in which He lived and which are within the power of any person, things in which each of us can and must live as Lord Jesus lived; both the newborn and the mature in faith.

These are things to which man does not give importance, but which Lord Jesus lived in His relationship with the heavenly Father. These things must be practiced by all of us, from small to great, being strictly necessary for us to reach the stature of the fullness of Christ. The self-denial, humility, godliness, righteousness... in which He lived express the beauty of His character. For these things, people despised Him and did not pay attention to Him. (And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light. John 3:19)

We are called to be full of admiration for His manner of being, to be drawn by the beauty of the Lord Jesus' heart. But we must also work to transform our hearts after

His heart, to deny ourselves, to be humble, godly, to make ourselves servants as He made Himself, to be long-suffering when mocked, to be full of kindness towards those who persecute us, to be full of gentleness...

If we find delight in these things and put them into practice, through them we will grow step by step until we reach the perfection of our character.

In His relationship with the heavenly Father, “the true Jesus” denied Himself, was humble, made Himself a servant obedient unto death, the fear of the Lord was His delight, was godly, and loved the heavenly Father with all His heart.

There are multitudes of people who appreciate Him because He fed them, because He healed them, but for the way He lived in His relationship with His Father, they are not interested in knowing or living as He lived. Because Satan has deceived us that it is impossible to live as He lived, these aspects of the Lord’s life are not paid attention to by most of us.

However, it is easy to observe that in these things in which He lived, we are also required to live. If we live as He lived, we will grow until we reach the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Self-denial

According to the dictionary: renunciation of personal interests or ideas. In His relationship with the heavenly Father, Lord Jesus emptied Himself. (Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant. Philippians 2:6-8)

Self-denial involves giving up your interests, giving up your own opinions, your own will, giving up a reply.

Although He was the Son of God, Lord Jesus did not have His own opinions, did not do what He wanted, but completely subjected His will to God.

The definition of self-denial is found in the life that Lord Jesus lived in His relationship with the heavenly Father. If we do not have this image of self-denial that Lord Jesus practiced, we will not know what true self-denial means. (Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. John 5:19)

The Lord Jesus chose the 12 disciples after a night of prayer with the Father. But none were chosen by Him but by the heavenly Father. (While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is

lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. John 17:12)

He did not work according to His thoughts, but remained in obedience and did everything the heavenly Father told Him to do. When He washed the disciples' feet, when He was the servant of all, when He fed the multitudes, He was in complete obedience to what the heavenly Father told Him to do.

He performed many healings, but not a single healing was done on His own initiative; all were done according to what the Father told Him to do. (I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. John 5:30).

This is the recipe for self-denial. If we admire Him for the way He lived, we will adopt it and practice it identically as He practiced it.

Lord Jesus shows us how He lived on earth, revealing this trait of His heart, which is of perfect beauty. He draws us with this beautiful trait, so that we may desire with all our hearts to have it too.

We have been called to live as He lived, to deny ourselves as He denied Himself. This is the true life to which we have been called, for the new life cannot begin without self-denial.

Self-denial is the first requirement of Lord Jesus that anyone who wants to begin the new life must fulfill. (If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. Luke 9:23)

It can be easily observed that self-denial is part of the plan of salvation, without which there is no new birth. This is how He lived, He denied Himself, He, our Bridegroom, and He asks us to do the same.

Check yourself! Have you denied yourself, have you given up human values? Have you fully accepted the teachings of Christ? Have all things become new? (Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17)

The devil has come to deceive people with certain parts of the Holy Scripture to show us that it is not possible to live as Lord Jesus lived. But it is possible, and it is mandatory for salvation! (And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Matthew 10:38)

This is how Lord Jesus lived, and this is how we must live too. We can easily notice by looking around us that self-denial is one of the most despised and ignored things. Let

us ask ourselves: Do we appreciate and desire to live in self-denial as Lord Jesus lived?

This post is an excerpt from the booklet "Transformed into the Image of Christ", which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.